

Message Text

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ORIGIN EPA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 AGRE-00 HEW-04 LAB-04
COME-00 MED-02 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /047 R

DRAFTED BY EPA/A-106:DHSTROTHER:KCG
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:BLLONG
EPA/A-106:DTOAKLEY
EUR/WE:JSWIHART
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
USDA, HEW (FDA, NCI, HIEHS), DOL (OSHA), COMMERCE, STATE(M/MED, EB)
-----024644 162206Z /73
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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STOCKHOLM FOR SOHNS (PARA 3C)

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SENV, IT

SUBJECT:VISIT OF EPA ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR INTER-
NATIONAL ACTIVITIES ALICE B. POPKIN

REF: SERWER-OAKLEY TELECON, 6 JANUARY 1978

1. EPA ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES
ALICE BRANDEIS POPKIN, ARRIVES ROME 2 FEBRUARY AT 0925 ON
PA 110, ACCOMPANIED BY DR. DONALD T. OAKLEY, DIRECTOR,
BILATERAL OPERATIONS DIVISION, EPA OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL
ACTIVITIES.

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2. IN MEETING WITH OAKLEY ON JANUARY 10, SCIENCE
COUNSELOR OF ITALIAN EMBASSY, DR. UMBERTO RATTI, HAS
IDENTIFIED FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS AS MOST APPROPRIATE
FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS OF SPECIFIC PROJECT POSSIBILITIES.
HE NOTED THE DIFFICULTY WITH TRYING TO SET FIRM APPOINT-
MENTS WITH "POLITICAL" PEOPLE DURING THE PRESENT GOI

CRISIS.

(A) MINISTRY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, WHICH INCORPORATES FUNCTIONS OF FORMER MINISTRY OF CULTURAL ASSETS AND ENVIRONMENT. THIS WAS DESCRIBED AS A "MINISTER WITHOUT A MINISTRY," BEING A COORDINATING GROUP OF 20-30 PEOPLE UNDER PROF. MARIO PEDINI. THE RECOMMENDED CONTACT IS PROFESSOR RCOTELLESA. ANOTHER CONTACT AT MRST IS DR. R. CATELANI, WHO IS ALSO HEAD OF F.I.R.M., A MEDICAL RESEARCH GROUP WORKING ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS.

(B) NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (CNR), WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED AS SOMEWHAT EQUIVALENT TO NSF, BUT WITH ADDITIONAL IN-HOUSE RESEARCH CAPABILITIES. PROF. LUBERTI IS CHIEF OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY. MRS. F. VEGLIANTI IS THE HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE OF CNR.

(C) MINISTRY OF HEALTH. HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IS DR. BERTOLINI. THE ISTITUTO DELLA SANITA MAY BE DOING SOME ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WORK RELATED TO EPA RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROGRAMS.

(D) ALSO WORTHY OF EMBASSY CONSIDERATION IS THE E.N.P.I. OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR. THIS IS EVIDENTLY SIMILAR TO THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, AND HAS AN INTERESTING LABORATORY OUTSIDE ROME AT MONTEPORZIO. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. KEY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE:

(A) IDENTIFYING HIGH-PRIORITY TOPICS FOR TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES ON WHICH EPA AND ONE OR MORE ITALIAN ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT COOPERATE FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

(B) AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE SEVESO INCIDENT:

(1) EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES OF THOSE AFFECTED BY DIOXIN EXPOSURE;

(2) PROGRESS IN CLEANUP AND DISPOSAL OF AFFECTED AREA;

(3) TECHNICAL AND REGULATORY MEANS FOR PREVENTION OF INCIDENTS

(C) CONTROL OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES: EPA IS WILLING TO CONSIDER BILATERAL EXCHANGES WHICH ARE COMPLEMENTARY TO WORK IN MULTILATERAL FORA. DR. RATTI INDICATED THAT ITALY HAS A STRONG DESIRE TO DEVELOP A MUCH CLOSER LIAISON WITH

EPA IN ORDER TO OBTAIN TIMELY INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT. HE WAS REASSURED OF EPA'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO MAXIMUM FEASIBLE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION IN THE CONTROL OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES. FYI: EMBASSY STOCKHOLM HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO HELP IDENTIFY PROPER GOI ADDRESSEE FOR APRIL 11-13 TOXICS MEETING. GOS HAD APPARENTLY BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN ANSWER FROM ITALIAN EMBASSY STOCKHOLM. EMBASSY ROME MAY WISH TO PROVIDE SUGGESTION TO SCIATT SOHNS AT EMBASSY STOCKHOLM (D) DR. RATTI INDICATED DESIRABILITY OF BRIEFING ON US TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT, ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN THE US AND OUR PERCEPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS AND NECESSARY COOPERATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT IN ADDITION TO ATTENDEES FROM HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND THE CNR, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN COMMERCE, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRY AND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION(S) SHOULD ALSO ATTEND. PRESUMABLY HE WILL FORWARD THIS SUGGESTION TO GOI.

(E) REQUEST EMBASSY ADVISE DEPARTMENT OF HOW VISITORS MIGHT BE PREPARED FOR DISCUSSION OF MILAN DRINKING WATER ISSUE. EPA AWARE OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED AND, WHILE INTERESTED IN LEARNING FROM SITUATION AND PROVIDING USEFUL ASSISTANCE, ACCEPTS EMBASSY GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PROCEED.

(F) WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY SUGGESTION OF OTHER HIGH-PRIORITY TOPICS IN ITALY WHICH COULD BE BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS.

4. DR. RATTI REMINDED EPA THAT ITALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION IS A "MOSAIC" OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICES AND PEOPLE ON ANY TOPIC, AND THAT THIS MUST BE KEPT IN MIND IN SETTING UP COOPERATION. HE INDICATED THAT ITALY SEES THIS TRUE OF US AS WELL, RETURNING SEVERAL TIMES TO THE SUBJECT OF CANCER RESEARCH. ACCORDING TO RATTI, ITALY SHARES WITH EPA SAME SKEPTICISM OF GENERAL UMBRELLA AGREEMENTS, PREFERRING TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC TOPICS FOR USEFUL COOPERATION AND THEN ESTABLISH REQUISITE BUREAUCRATIC FRAMEWORK.

5. MRS. POPKIN LEAVES ROME 4 FEBRUARY AT 1715 ON BA 850. DR. OAKLEY LEAVES ROME 5 FEBRUARY AT 1025 ON PA 110.

6. AS SOON AS PERSONS WITH WHOM VISITORS WILL BE MEETING ARE IDENTIFIED, WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CABLING RELEVANT BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FUNCTIONS, AND POSITION OF PERSON IN ORGANIZATION.

7. REQUEST EMBASSY MAKE RESERVATION FOR TWO SINGLES AT
CONVENIENT MODERATE PRICED HOTEL OR PENSION VICINITY OF
SPANISH STEPS (POPKIN-2 NIGHTS; OAKLEY-3 NIGHTS). PLEASE
CONFIRM, PROVIDING ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF HOTEL.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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